



Be a Scientist!

Body fat helps animals stay warm. Do a test to find something that can keep your hands warm. Fill a glass with ice water. Touch the glass. How does it feel? Now choose a few items to wrap around the glass. One at a time, place each item around the glass and pick it up. Which item kept your hand warmest when you touched the glass? Why do you think this was so?



Beyond the Book

Use books or ask your teacher to help you use the Internet to learn other ways animals of the ice stay warm.

FOCUS Book

Animals of the Ice and Snow



: Science A-Z 

Animals of the Ice and Snow



FOCUS Question

What features help animals stay warm and safe living in ice and snow?

Structure and Function

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Living on the Ice

The North Pole and the South Pole are very cold. They are windy and icy.

To live there, animals need to stay warm. They also need to stay safe.

North Pole



South Pole





Animals in cold places have special body parts to stay warm.

The animals below live in the cold. How are these animals the same? How are these animals different? Which body features help them stay warm?

albatross



grey wolf



caribou

Body Fat

Many animals in cold places have a lot of body fat. The fat is under their skin.

Body fat keeps an animal warm. Animals gain fat from the food they eat.



walrus



harbor seals

Some seals spend time on ice and in water. They swim in the water to find fish to eat.

Eating fish gives seals more body fat. This extra fat helps keep them warm on the ice and in the water.



polar bear

Fur

Some animals have fur. Fur is a layer of hair.

Fur keeps an animal warm. It blocks the wind.



musk ox



arctic hare



Fur can help animals stay safe, too. Animals with white fur are hard to see in snow! This keeps them safe from animals that want to eat them. This fox could eat the hare. The fox's white fur could keep it safe from a wolf or polar bear.

arctic fox



Feathers

Birds have feathers. Feathers keep birds warm. They protect them from the wind.

Some birds have white feathers. Like white fur, white feathers are hard to see in the snow.

arctic tern



snowy owl



sparrow





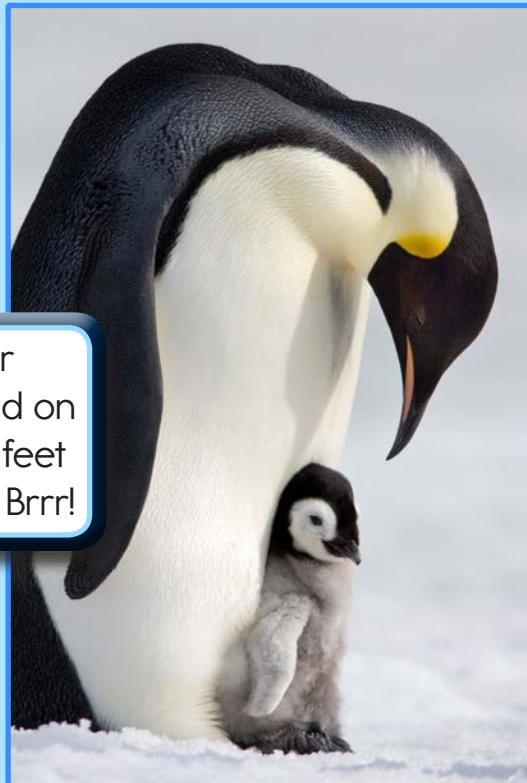
Penguins swim in very cold water! They have *waterproof* feathers. These special feathers keep them dry and warm.

Penguins swim to find fish. Fish give them body fat. Fat keeps penguins warm.



wowser!

Baby emperor penguins stand on their parents' feet to stay warm! Brrr!



Read-Think-Write

Write or draw your answers on separate paper. Use details from the book to support each answer.

- ❶ How do animals get the body fat that they need? Why do they need it?
- ❷ Which feature helps wolves stay warm?
 - Ⓐ feathers
 - Ⓑ fur
 - Ⓒ fins
- ❸ Look at the birds on page 8. Which bird would be the easiest to see on the ice or snow? Explain your answer.
- ❹ Name two body features that keep animals warm on ice or snow.



FOCUS Question

What features help animals stay warm and safe living in ice and snow? Choose one of the animals in the book. Explain how it stays warm and safe living in such a cold place. Use writing and pictures.

